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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 14 and 29.

Please amend Claims 1-13, 15-28, and 30 as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A process for routing packets through a load balancing array
2 of servers across a network in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:
3 requesting, by a scheduler, assignment of a virtual IP address to said the scheduler,
4 said the scheduler is designated as active scheduler for a load balancing array;
5 wherein all incoming packets from requesting clients destined for the load balancing
6 array are routed through said the scheduler via the virtual IP address;
7 ~~wherein said scheduler in response to receiving a request packet from a requesting~~
8 ~~client at the scheduler, rout[[es]]ing and load balanc[[es]]ing [[a]] the request packet from a~~
9 ~~requesting client to a load balancing server;~~
10 ~~wherein said load balancing server in response to receiving the request packet at the~~
11 ~~load balancing server, rout[[es]]ing and load balanc[[es]]ing said the request packet to a~~
12 ~~back end Web server;~~
13 wherein said the back end Web server's response packet to said the request packet is
14 sent to said the load balancing server; and
15 ~~wherein said load balancing server in response to receiving the response packet at~~
16 ~~the load balancing server, send[[s]]ing said the response packet directly to said the~~
17 ~~requesting client[[]];~~
18 parsing outgoing HTML pages to determine select content to be served by a content
19 delivery network; and

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20 modifying URLs for the select content in an HTML page in a response packet in
21 order to serve the select content from the content delivery network.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the scheduler is a load
2 balancing server and routes and load balances client requests to itself.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 detecting the failure of ~~said~~ the scheduler; and
3 electing a load balancing server among a plurality of load balancing servers as ~~the a~~
4 new scheduler.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the scheduler detects the
2 failure of ~~other~~ any load balancing servers among a plurality of load balancing servers in the
3 load balancing array; and wherein ~~said~~ the scheduler stops routing packets to any failed load
4 balancing servers.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server schedules sessions to back end Web servers based on a cookie or session ID.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server uses cookie injection to map a client to a specific back end Web server.

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1 7. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server decrypts ~~said~~ a request packet ~~if it is in~~ in an SSL session before routing and load
3 balancing ~~said~~ the request packet to a back end Web server.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 7, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server encrypts ~~said~~ a response packet ~~if it is in~~ in an SSL session before sending ~~said~~ the
3 response packet directly to ~~said~~ the requesting client.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server establishes a connection with ~~said~~ the requesting client and ~~said~~ the requesting client
3 keeps ~~said~~ the connection alive with ~~said~~ the load balancing server.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server performs URL based scheduling of request packets.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server performs hash scheduling of request packets.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server maintains persistent connections in ~~its~~ paths ~~when required~~ requiring persistent
3 connections; and wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing server uses hash group based persistence
4 to maintain its persistence tables.

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1 13. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein said the load balancing
2 server detects if when a back end Web server fails; and wherein said the load balancing
3 server stops routing request packets to failed back end Web servers.

1 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim [[14]] 1, wherein HTML pages that
2 have modified URLs are cached to improve performance.

1 16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for routing packets through a load balancing
2 array of servers across a network in a computer environment, comprising:

3 ~~a module for a requesting~~, by a scheduler, the scheduler requests assignment of a
4 virtual IP address to ~~said the~~ scheduler, said the scheduler is designated as active scheduler
5 for a load balancing array of servers;

6 wherein all incoming packets from requesting clients destined for the load balancing
7 array are routed through said the scheduler via the virtual IP address;

8 wherein said the scheduler routes and load balances a request packet from a
9 requesting client to a load balancing server;

10 wherein said the load balancing server routes and load balances said the request
11 packet to a back end Web server;

12 wherein said the back end Web server's response packet to said the request packet is
13 sent to said the load balancing server; and

14 wherein said the load balancing server sends said the response packet directly to said
15 the requesting client[[.]] ;

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16 a module for parsing outgoing HTML pages to determine select content to be served
17 by a content delivery network; and
18 a module for modifying URLs for the select content in an HTML page in a response
19 packet in order to serve the select content from the content delivery network.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the scheduler is a
2 load balancing server and routes and load balances client requests to itself.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising:
2 a module for detecting ~~the~~ failure of ~~said~~ the scheduler; and
3 a module for electing a load balancing server among a plurality of load balancing
4 servers as ~~the~~ a new scheduler.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the scheduler detects
2 the failure of ~~either~~ any load balancing servers among a plurality of load balancing servers in
3 the load balancing array; and wherein ~~said~~ the scheduler stops routing packets to any failed
4 load balancing servers.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server schedules sessions to back end Web servers based on a cookie or session ID.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server uses cookie injection to map a client to a specific back end Web server.

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1 22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server decrypts ~~said~~ the request packet when ~~[[if]]~~ it is an SSL session before routing and
3 load balancing ~~said~~ the request packet to a back end Web server.

1 23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server encrypts ~~said~~ the response packet when ~~[[if]]~~ it is an SSL session before sending ~~said~~
3 the response packet directly to ~~said~~ the requesting client.

1 24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server establishes a connection with ~~said~~ the requesting client and ~~said~~ the requesting client
3 keeps ~~said~~ the connection alive with ~~said~~ the load balancing server.

1 25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server performs URL based scheduling of request packets.

1 26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server performs hash scheduling of request packets.

1 27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server maintains persistent connections in its paths ~~when required~~ requiring persistent
3 connections; and wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing server uses hash group based persistence
4 to maintain its persistence tables.

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1 28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
2 server detects when ~~when~~ [[if]] a back end Web server fails; and wherein ~~said~~ the load balancing
3 server stops routing request packets to failed back end Web servers.

1 29. (Canceled)

1 30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~[[29]]~~ 16, wherein HTML pages that
2 have modified URLs are cached to improve performance.